

Appl. No. 10/621,859
Amdt. dated October 12, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 10, 2004

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 6 and 8-13 are amended herein. Claims 14-21 are canceled. New claims 22-29 are added. The remaining claims are not amended in this response.

1. (currently amended) A method for reducing moisture within a space in a construction project for the purpose preventing structural damage and/or the growth of mold or mildew to components with the space in the construction project, comprising the steps of:

determining moisture content level at one or more points within the space in the construction project; and

if the moisture level at a selected number of said one or more points is above a threshold, performing moisture removal within said construction project to reduce the moisture level of the space to a value below a level sufficient to prevent structural damage and/or growth of mold or mildew on the components within the space.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said selected number of points is one.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said construction project comprises a residential construction project.

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4. (original) The method according to claim 3 wherein said residential construction project comprises a single family dwelling.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said construction project comprises a commercial building construction project.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising sealing a portion the space of said construction project where said one or more points is located to provide an enclosed area for moisture removal.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said moisture removal comprises providing a dehumidifier device to remove moisture.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7 wherein said moisture removal further comprises providing a heater for heating the space for enhanced moisture removal.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 8 wherein said moisture removal further comprises providing a blower to move air within the space during said providing moisture removal.

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10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said providing moisture removal comprises providing a heater within the space.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein said providing moisture removal further comprises providing a blower to move air within the space.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said providing moisture removal comprises providing a blower to move air within the space.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein said moisture removal comprises providing a dehumidifier to remove moisture from air within the space.

14-21. (canceled)

22. (new) A process for treating a space within a construction of a new home to preventing structural damage and/or the growth of mold or mildew, comprising the steps of:

measuring moisture content at one or more locations within the space, wherein said one or more locations are selected from the group of locations consisting of a base plates, a stud and a floor,

determining whether the measured moisture content meets a threshold indication recommending that drying be performed;

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positioning and operating within the space one or more drying devices for the purpose of reducing the moisture level within the space and thereby reducing the moisture level in structural components of the space, wherein the one or more drying devices are selected from the group consisting of a dehumidifier, a space heater, and an air moving device.

23. (new) The process according to claim 22, further comprising the step of substantially sealing the space off relative to other space outside of the space being treated.

24. (new) The process according to claim 22, wherein said one or more drying devices are operated for a period of time, whereupon one or more further moisture content readings are taken, and a decision is made whether to continue operating said one or more drying devices based on whether said one or more further moisture content readings meet the threshold indication.

25. (new) A process for testing and treating a space within a construction of a new home to preventing structural damage and/or the growth of mold or mildew, comprising the steps of:

 taking initial moisture content readings at locations within the space,

 determining whether the measured moisture content meets a threshold indication recommending that treatment is warranted;

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if the determination is that treatment is warranted, positioning one or more moisture reduction equipments relative to the space;

activating the one or more moisture reduction equipments for the purpose of reducing the moisture level within the space and allowing said moisture reduction equipments to operate for a period of time,

taking additional moisture content readings at locations within the space after the period of time has elapsed,

determining whether the measured moisture content meets a threshold indication recommending that further treatment is warranted;

if the determination is that further treatment is warranted, allowing said moisture reduction equipments to continue to operate for another period of time,

thereby reducing the moisture level in structural components of the space.

26. The process according to claim 25, further comprising the step of moving one or more of the one or more equipments to different locations within the space prior to said allowing said moisture reduction equipments to continue to run.

27. The process according to claim 25, further comprising providing one or more additional moisture removing equipments in

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said step of allowing said moisture reduction equipments to continue to run.

28. The process according to claim 27, wherein the first mentioned at least one of said one or more drying devices comprises a dehumidifier, and wherein said one or more additional equipments is selected from the group consisting of an air mover, a heater and a dehumidifier.

29. The process according to claim 25, wherein at least one of said one or more drying devices comprises a dehumidifier.